

BERGEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

STATEMENT

OF

**MICHAEL C. FUGEE
700 WYCKOFF AVENUE
WYCKOFF, NEW JERSEY 07481
TELEPHONE: [REDACTED]
DOB: 2-1-61
SS#: [REDACTED]**

PRESENT:

**DETECTIVE SERGEANT JOHN HAVILAND, BERGEN COUNTY
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, SEX CRIMES/CHILD ABUSE SQUAD;
DETECTIVE JASON LOVE, BERGEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE,
SEX CRIMES/CHILD ABUSE SQUAD;
DETECTIVE DAN KELLOGG, WYCKOFF POLICE DEPARTMENT;
KAREN D. SOLE, SENIOR CLERK STENOGRAPHER, BERGEN COUNTY
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2001

TIME: 10:45 P.M.

**PLACE: WYCKOFF POLICE DEPARTMENT, SCOTT PLAZA, WYCKOFF, NEW
JERSEY 07481**

QUESTIONING BY DETECTIVE SERGEANT HAVILAND:

**Q. Today is Monday, March 19, 2001. The time is 10:45 p.m. We are
located at the Wyckoff Police Department Detective Bureau.**

**Michael, my name is John Haviland. I'm a sergeant with the
Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, currently assigned to the Sex Crimes and
Child Abuse Unit. Seated to my right is Detective Jason Love of the Bergen**

County Prosecutor's Office, and to my left is Detective Daniel Kellogg of the Wyckoff Police Department. And also in the room is Karen Sole, who's a stenographer taking your statement here.

Earlier we had stopped by St. Elizabeth's rectory and requested if you could come down to the police department to speak to us. Prior to any questioning here today, did I read you a series of questions?

A. Yes, you did.

Q. And do you recognize this form that I put in front of you?

A. Yes.

Q. At this time I'd like to mark this as S-1 for identification.

(A Miranda rights form is marked S-1 for identification by the reporter.)

Q. Do you recognize this form?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. And is that, in fact, your signature?

A. It is.

Q. And did I read each one of those questions to you?

A. You did.

Q. And did you also read each one to yourself?

A. I did.

Q. Are you willing to provide me with statement at this time?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. Can you raise your right hand?

WITNESS SWORN:

A. I do.

Q. For the record, can you please state your full name, spelling your last name?

A. Michael Charles Fugee, F-u-g-e-e.

Q. And your home address?

A. 700 Wyckoff Avenue, Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481.

Q. And what is that?

A. That is the rectory of the Church of St. Elizabeth.

Q. What is your phone number there?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. Your date of birth?

A. February 1, 1961.

Q. And your Social Security number?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. And what is your present position at St. Elizabeth's?

A. Parochial Vicar.

Q. Is that a priest?

A. Yeah, assistant pastor, priest.

Q. And how many years have you been a priest?

A. Seven.

Q. How many parishes have you been associated with?

A. Two, including this one.

Q. What's the other one?

A. St. Rose of Lima in Short Hills.

Q. And when did you come to St. Elizabeth's?

A. December 7, 1997.

Q. Okay. How long have you known the [REDACTED] family?

A. Since I met the family at church my first Sunday in the parish, so three and a half years.

Q. Okay. And during the course of that time, have you assisted [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] with her divorce and other issues?

A. She was already separated when I came into the parish and was subsequently divorced during my time knowing her, yes. It became final after I met her. I did not assist her with that.

Q. Okay.

A. I did not walk her through the separation in any way.

Q. Would you consider yourself a friend of the family?

A. Yes.

Q. And have you been to their home?

A. I have.

Q. On a number of occasions?

A. Yes, many.

Q. Did there come a point in time where you had a problem with her son,
[REDACTED]?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. When was this, approximately?

A. Approximately six months ago.

Q. Okay. Which would be?

A. August of 2000.

Q. And where were you?

A. In Williamsburg, Virginia.

Q. And who was there?

A. Myself and [REDACTED] and his mother.

Q. And where exactly were you?

A. In Williamsburg, Virginia, a hotel.

Q. Was this Labor Day weekend, by chance?

A. It was.

Q. And why were you all there?

A. On a weekend on vacation.

Q. Was there something that occurred between yourself and [REDACTED] which would be considered inappropriate?

A. Yes.

Q. What was that?

A. Well, while wrestling with [REDACTED], I grabbed his crotch.

Q. Okay. With your hand?

A. Yes.

Q. Over his clothes?

A. Yes.

Q. Why?

A. In the -- while wrestling, the sudden urge to do it, I did it.

Q. Did it excite you in some sort of way?

A. No, not to arousal, no.

Q. Okay. But did it excite you at all?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you obtain an erection from what happened?

A. No, I did not.

Q. But it did excite you in some way?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have an interest in males?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Would you consider yourself homosexual?

A. Bi-sexual, homosexual, I guess, but struggling with that identity.

Q. Still to this day?

A. Yes.

Q. How did [REDACTED] react after that incident?

A. Immediately shut down. Would not talk to me at all the rest of the weekend.

Q. Okay. Do you know where his mother, [REDACTED], was during this incident?

A. Right in the room in front of us.

Q. Do you think she knew what had happened?

A. No.

Q. Okay. Prior to that, were there any similar-type incidents?

A. One other time while wrestling at the family's home.

Q.. Where do they live?

A. I don't know the number. On [REDACTED] Avenue in Wyckoff.

Q. Okay. And what was the period of time before the Virginia incident?

A. About a year.

Q. A year?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. How old do you think [REDACTED] was at that time?

A. 14.

Q. Okay. In your own words, tell me what happened that day.

A. That was more of a sudden grazing of, you know, of his privates while wrestling, and immediately stopped.

Q. Was it intentional?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And again, was it an urge you were feeling?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you feel any sort of excitement?

A. No.

Q. No?

A. Yes. Yes. I mean, sudden, yes, sensation, yes.

Q. Okay. And you believe that's what made you do this?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. After that incident at his residence, how did he react to you?

A. There was no marked reaction. I mean, we stopped wrestling, but there was no marked — nothing — no marked departure as there was in Williamsburg at all.

Q. Okay. Based on what you just told me about these two incidents, in your mind, would these acts be considered crimes or illegal?

A. Yes, of course, violation.

Q. And you know you've done something wrong?

A. Yes, I know I've done something wrong.

Q. Okay. Have you told anybody about these acts that you've done against [REDACTED]?

A. No, I have not.

Q. And are there any other individuals or minors out there that you've done something like this to?

A. No, there is not, none, no.

Q. When did it come to your attention that this matter was going to be public or be investigated?

A. Last — a week ago today. Last Tuesday.

Q. And how did it come to your attention?

A. Through a phone call from Monsignor Finnerty, who is the Vicar for Clergy of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Q. At any time, did you tell [REDACTED] not to tell anyone about this?

A. None, absolutely.

Q. Have you ever threatened him?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever have his mother threaten him?

A. No. Actually, I urged his mother to find out what it was that was wrong.

Q. But in your mind, you did know why he was acting like this toward you?

A. Yes.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT HAVILAND: Detective Love, do you have any questions?

DETECTIVE LOVE: No.

Q. Okay. Was there some sort of e-mails involved in this case?

A. I received an e-mail from [REDACTED] on the 24th of September.

Q. And who is [REDACTED]?

A. [REDACTED] is a friend of the family.

Q. Is she a parishioner?

A. Yes.

Q. And did she have any knowledge or contact with [REDACTED]?

A. Yes.

Q. Was she aware of the touching incidents?

A. Not that I knew of at the time. Not through the e-mails, no. She evidently was, but I did not know that at the time.

Q. Did she appear to have some knowledge that you may have done something wrong or were acting inappropriately?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you always answer her truthfully?

A. Yes.

Q. But she never directly confronted you?

A. She did not. To this day, she has not.

Q. What provider were you using?

A. America On-line.

Q. What is your screen name?

A. [REDACTED].

Q. Say that again.

A. [REDACTED].

Q.. Do you have any other screen names?

A. No. I haven't changed my screen name in...

Q. Who's [REDACTED]?

A. [REDACTED]

Q. Okay.

A. I don't know, because the e-mail from [REDACTED] came from

[REDACTED]. She e-mailed me from her [REDACTED].

Q. Okay.

A. That is, I believe [REDACTED] e-mail address, but I did not communicate with him by e-mail.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT HAVILAND: Detective Kellogg, do you have any questions?

QUESTIONING BY DETECTIVE KELLOGG:

Q. Michael, going back to the incident that took place in Wyckoff on

[REDACTED] Avenue, what room in the house did the incident take place in?

A. In the living room.

Q. Living room. Were there other people in the living room?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know who those other people were at the time?

A. I think his mom was there, his grandmother.

Q. His mom and grandmother?

A. Yeah.

Q. Did they witness the incident?

A. I don't think they saw anything happen.

Q. They just assumed it was a wrestling match?

A. Yes.

DETECTIVE KELLOGG: That's it.

QUESTIONING BY DETECTIVE SERGEANT HAVILAND:

Q. Michael, have you been treated fairly by the members of the
Prosecutor's Office and Wyckoff Police Department?

A. Yes, definitely.

Q. Have we forced you or threatened you in any way here to provide us
with this information?

A. No, definitely not.

Q. And has everything you told us been the truth?

A. Yes, it has been the truth.

Q. Okay. Thank you for your cooperation. The time is 10:56 p.m.

STATEMENT CONCLUDED: 10:56 P.M.